

REMARKS

In the above-identified Office Action, an objection was raised with regard to the phrase in the claims which read “without using an operation panel”. In response, it is noted that that phrase has been deleted from each of the independent claims. In this regard, it is believed that each of the claims is now in good form with respect to 35 U.S.C. § 112, and it is noted that the Abstract has been re-written to correspond to the subject matter of the claims.

It is noted also that the claims were again all rejected as being obvious in view of the combination of the disclosures of the cited Ludtke, Hahm, and Griesau patents. By this response, Applicants have further clarified the patentable distinctions of the present invention as compared to the cited prior art. Accordingly, it is believed that such claims are now patentable over those references for the reasons given below.

In particular, amended independent Claim 1 now requires that the control system of the present invention includes a control apparatus that receives an operation panel from a controlled apparatus, wherein the panel includes display elements used to control the controlled apparatus, and includes a specific display element used to control a specific function of the controlled apparatus. The system also includes a remote control device having first and second operating units that control the specific function of the controlled apparatus. The remote control device is arranged so that when the control apparatus receives a control signal from the remote control device, (i) a first command is generated if the control unit determines, in accordance with the received control signal, that the specific display element in the operation panel is operated using the first operating unit, and (ii) a second command is generated if the control unit determines, in accordance with the received control signal, that the second operating unit is operated, wherein the first and second commands are used to control the specific function of the

controlled apparatus. The generated first and second commands are sent from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus.

Applicants respectfully submit that this feature of the present invention is not disclosed by the cited references of Ludtke, Hahm and Griesau. As stated in the Office Action, the Ludtke patent fails to teach a second operation unit for operating a specific function of a controlled apparatus. In this connection, while the references of Hahm and Griesau may disclose a second operation unit, none of the references disclose or suggest generating first and second commands on the basis of a control signal received from a remote control device in accordance with the operation of first and second operation units. That is, none of the cited references disclose or suggest a relationship between the generation of first and second commands and operation of the first and second operating units, as required in amended independent Claim 1.

Amended independent Claim 11 requires a control apparatus similar to that set forth in Claim 1, and independent Claim 19 is a corresponding method claim. Accordingly, the above-described discussion of patentability, applicable to independent Claim 1, applies also to each of the amended independent Claims 11 and 19.

For these various reasons Applicants believe that the claims are allowable, and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3939.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Krause", written over a horizontal line.

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